(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Government provide assistance to the Stale Governments under the UNDP for the training of design etc. to the persons involved in this profession under the National Leather Development Programme; and

(b) if so, the details of the Schemes approved for newly created State of Uttaranchal, Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh togcthcrwith the fund made available so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN): (a) Government, under the UNDP assisted Programme "Small Industries Development and Employment Programme in Leather Sector (SIDE-NLDP)", provides assistance under its various sub-programmes for carrying out programmes aimed at development of artisans in the leather sector through technology transfers, skill upgradation, design development and improvement in quality of their products. These sub-programmes are implemented by agencies including NGOs, State Governments, Organizations under State Governments.

(b) No such sub-programme has so far been conceived for the States of Uttaranchal and Chhattisgarh. However for Jharkhand, an initial allocation of US $ 5000 has been provided for skill upgradation of the artisans.

New scheme for shoe-manufacturer

† 17l4. SHRI MANOHAR KANT DHYAN1: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are going to start any scheme like UNDP to encourage shoe-manufacturers in Uttaranchal as has been done in Kanpur and Agra;

(b) if so. the names of the places identified for this purpose and by when this scheme will be executed; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN): (a) and (b) There is no proposal under consideration of the Government to start any scheme to encourage shoe manufacturers in Uttaranchal under the ongoing UNDP assisted Programme "Small Industries Development & Employment Programme in Leather Sector (SIDE-NLDP)" on the lines of schemes operating in Agra and Kanpur.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) Various sub-programmes being implemented under SIDE-NLDP, the present term of which is upto March, 2002, have already been finalized. Since all the funds available under the programme have already been commited, launching of any new Scheme is not being considered at present.

Assistance to Coffee Growers

1715. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether coffee prices have crashed and coffee planters are in difficulty;

(b) the details of Government's plan to assist the coffee planters to come out of this difficulty;

(c) whether any financial assistance, marketing package, etc. have been worked out to tide over these difficulties; and

(d) if so, the details of schemes started therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI DIGVUAY SINGH): (a) In the recent times, due to surplus coffee production on the part of the producing countries has led to a mismatch between demand and supply and hence the prices of coffee both in global and domestic markets have been witnessing a downward trend.

(b) to (d) The Government of India, through Coffee Board, besides operating several plan schemes and developmental activities aimed at intensive cultivation, quality upgradation and water augmentation, has also been providing necessary support in the form of research, extension, arrangement of credit and finance and other back up support like supply of seed for planting purposes etc. Further thrust is being given for increasing productivity of coffee particularly in the small grower sector and improving quality of the product to achieve competitiveness in the international markets. The Board is also encouranging the large growers to produce speciality coffees whicti fetches attractive premiums in developed countries like USA and European Union.

Recently at the behest of the Government of India, the Reserve Bank of India/NABARD have issued instructions to commercial and cooperative banks to reschedule the crop loans of coffee growers and also to extend fresh working capital loans to coffee sector as a relief to the growers. The Board has also prepared a medium term export strategy to gain market share in key markets